

third means for, in cases where the second means decides that a radio response to the radio signal is received, judging that there is an ETC vehicle incoming; and

fourth means for, in cases where the vehicle sensor detects a vehicle while the second means decides that a radio response to the radio signal is not received, judging that there is a non-ETC vehicle incoming.

6. (Amended) An ETC (Electronic Toll Collection) system, comprising:  
an antenna;

transceiver means working cooperatively with said antenna for outputting a radio signal at a given rating level to cover a limited radio-communication service zone;

a vehicle sensor preceded by said antenna by a predetermined interval for detecting whether a vehicle has reached a predetermined position in said limited radio-communication zone;

said transceiver means further working cooperatively with said antenna for detecting radio response to said radio signal from each vehicle detected by said vehicle sensor within said radio-communication zone; and

processor means for deciding a vehicle that has been detected by said vehicle sensor in said radio-communication zone is a non-ETC vehicle if no radio response to said radio signal is detected from said vehicle.

### **Remarks**

The following is in response to the Office Action dated August 13, 2002.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2 and 5-7 were rejected under newly cited Chiappetti U.S. patent 4,338,587.